

01 November, 1, 99

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857
Attn: Commissioner **Henney**

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My vote is for 'strong, clear, unambiguous labeling of ALL Genetically Modified (GM) foods.

DEAR COMMISSIONER HENNEY:

Reasons: The consumer has, and always has had the 'right' to know what they consume. To know what they are putting into their bodies is a "natural right", which is your job to protect 'openly.' The FDA is a department of the Federal Government, and its job is protecting the consumer, **NOT** the manufactures, factory farms, or the processing plants. You, Doctor are our spokesman, and you speak for and to 'the people.' Your department has not been doing its job. The consumer should have the choice based upon their knowledge, from information given by you – and if we choose to eat GM foods it is our choice, not yours nor the producers – no matter what the reason they have. The people have 'a need to know.'

I want you to consider this with that statement: when I was a young athlete, before modified antibiotic corn and the new power bars or even Gator-Aid., I drank 'natural milk' and a raw egg as did all athletes of that period. Today, because the bugs (salmonella) have become resistant to antibiotics because of GM (antibiotic) corn, I can not have a raw egg, or even true Eggs Benedict, and I know the milk has been 'enhanced' by giving cows hormones, not to 'guard my health, but to help produce more milk so that the farmer, or factory farm can make more money. It is about 'profit margins,' not about basic health issues, none of which are in my best interests.

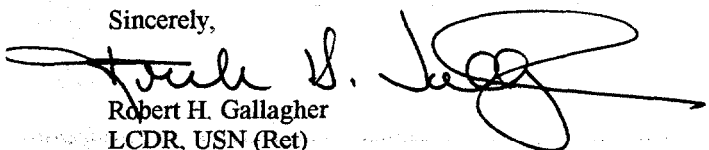
I currently live in Japan and do not have this problem. Why? I can eat my meat rare or raw (hamburgers, steaks), raw eggs, and I know the milk has not been hormone treated. It is safe to cook a turkey, and stuff it with bread for Thanksgiving – as long as the turkey is not from the United States. It is safe to eat it my way – all ways., Are you telling me that the rest of the world has safer products than the United States? Perhaps you will. not, but I know I cannot have a rare hamburger, a runny egg, or a stuffed turkey in, or imported here from the United States, but I can have 'it if it is raised in Japan???' Why not? What is wrong with this picture? The most powerful, most productive, and one of the most advanced nations in the world and you cannot eat an egg raw???

The reason we have changed our eating habits is is not for our health, but because restaurants know they will potentially get sued if someone gets sick eating food which has bacteria on or in it, and they will not sell it to you until running it to an internal temperature of not below 150". Never mind that over cooking ruins the flavor, and reduces vitamin content or composition. Eating is supposed to be enjoyable, not a dangerous or a questionable activity. Never mind that bacterium has become more resistant to antibiotics because of GM products – and the introduction of antiseptic hand soap, which will also modify those same germs into stronger bugs in the future. What is wrong with this picture Madam Commissioner? The bacteria are winning, and we, the people, do not have a choice? Why Not? Is the bottom line health, or money?

The only thing that has saved uproar in the United States is the fact that the big companies have suppressed the news, repressed calls for labeling, and obscured the problems which have occurred within the FDA – factory farm – hormone, seed manufacture company cycle. Eisenhower warned us of the 'Military-industrial complex,' but who is warning of the "FDA-Industrial complex?" I can have this conversation with my family, who are scattered throughout the United States and they are not aware of the problems with chicken, pork, beef, milk, corn, squash, soybean, etc., but they do remember how it 'once was.' Why is it not the same or more exactly, even better?" I am not an extremist, alarmist, Green-Peace activist, a tree hugger, nor an eco-terrorist. I am a lone, knowledgeable individual who believes, and always has that I should have a choice of what I eat, that to me is 'basic common sense.' I can grow my own, my forefathers did and I think we are smarter than them – or are we?

I want that choice Commissioner **Henney**. In fact, I need that choice to survive in our complex world. You should understand that basic need of the consumer, and consumers right of knowing what is being ingested.

Sincerely,


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